**Central Assistance under AIBP to Rajasthan**

1014. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD;
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plans to accord Rajasthan special status under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) due to its desert, drought conditions, hilly and tribal regions similar to Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, by when and whether Rajasthan will be entitled to the same liberal norms as these States under Central loan assistance: and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) As the State of Rajasthan has already developed about 82 percent of irrigation potential, it is not appropriate to treat Rajasthan at par with Special Category States for providing Central Loan Assistance (CLA) under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP).

**Management of Water Resources**

1015. SHRI H. K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to prevailing drought situation in the country, the water sources have dried up and the country is not in a position to meet its demand of water;

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to make the country drought free and the amount required therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to change the policy relating to management of water resources; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Due to below normal rainfall during monsoon 2002, drought situation was experienced